roads. Motihari-Sitamarhi road is a State Highway. There is no proposal to declare these State roads as National Highway. In February, 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 kms of State roads including 225 kms in Bihar as National Highways. Presently, the emphasis is on development of roads already declared as National Highways.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal to declare these roads as National Highways from security consideration.

Generating employment in Maharashtra

*277. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the problem of unemployment is increasing day by day as well as employment in the organised sector is also declining in the last two years in the country particularly in the Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, Government's response and reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering any specific programmes for generating more employment in the country specially in the Maharashtra State during the next three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Results of the most recent quinquennial survey on employment and unemployment, which was completed in July 2005, are not available as yet. However, as per the previous two such surveys, the incidence of unemployment increased from 5.99% in 1993-94 to 7.32% in 1999-2000 at All India level, and from 5.09% to 7.16% in Maharashtra. Employment in organised sector at All India level declined from 27.96 million, as on 31.3.2000 to 26.98 million, as on 31.3.2003, and in Maharashtra State it declined from 3.76 million to 3.59 million in the same period.

(b) A higher growth of the economy especially in the labour intensive sectors is required to attain a growth in employment in excess of labour force.

(c) and (d) The Tenth Plan includes a number of programmes to increase

the growth of labour intensive sectors such as Agriculture and Allied Activities, Food Processing, Rural Non-farm Sector, Small and Medium Enterprises and Services Sector including Health, Education, Information Technology & Communication. National Food for Work Programme, and the proposed Act on National Rural Employment Guarantee will generate additional demand for labour in the rural areas. These are applicable to all States including the State of Maharashtra.

Opening of still well road

*278. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China and India have lately been actively working on plans to reopen the still well road between the two countries through Myanmar, which would reduce the distance between the two nations from over 6,000 kms to just 1,300 kms;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter and the respective stand of India, Myanmar and China in regard thereto and how the benefits of increase in trade and facilities would be stored; and

(c) the steps taken and are being taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Government of India has discussed the possibility of improving road connectivity with Myanmar and China. However, the question of reopening of Still well road has not been discussed.

Boats seized by Pakistani Security Agency

*279. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuous problem of Indian fishermen and boats being taken into custody by the Pakistani Security